

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: SOPN, NU

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE- WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE
MAY 16, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE PREPARED
IN ANTICIPATION OF QUESTIONS ARISING FROM ARTICLE RE:
U.S. POLICY NICARAGUA IN WASHINGTON POST MAY 16, 1978.
QUESTIONS RAISED AT PRESS BRIEFING AND SUBSTANCE
OF GUIDANCE USED.

BEGIN TEXT: Q: DID THE ADMINISTRATION YIELD TO CONGRESS-
MAN CHARLES WILSON'S PRESSURE IN DECIDING TO GO FORWARD
WITH AID PROGRAMS FOR NICARAGUA WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN
HELD UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS?

A: CONGRESSMAN WILSON HAS MADE HIS OPINIONS CONCERNING
VARIOUS AID PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR NICARAGUA KNOWN TO
THE DEPARTMENT, AS HAVE OTHER PERSONS IN AND OUT OF
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CONGRESS. THE RECENT DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH A
\$3.3 MILLION NUTRITION LOAN AND THE CONSIDERATION BEING
GIVEN TO A \$7.5 MILLION RURAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT LOAN
REFLECT THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERALL JUDGMENT TO PROCEED WITH
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS CONCERNING THE AID TO

GO TO NICARAGUA?

A: WE WILL PROCEED WITH A \$3.3 MILLION NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR NICARAGUA, WITH SEVERAL SMALL GRANT PROGRAMS ADDRESSING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, AND WITH FUNDING FOR THREE PROGRAMS BEING CONDUCTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NICARAGUA. ALL OF THE PROGRAMS WOULD BENEFIT THE NEEDY IN NICARAGUA. THE NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (A \$3.0 MILLION LOAN AND \$276,000 GRANT) IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE NUTRITION OF NICARAGUA'S LOW-INCOME RURAL POPULATION.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES NUTRITION EDUCATION, PRODUCTION, AND MARKETING OF FORTIFIED AND HIGH PROTEIN FOODS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

THE THREE PROGRAMS BEING CONDUCTED BY PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: A \$60,000 GRANT TO THE NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR ITS "RURAL SMALL MERCHANT CREDIT UNIONS" PROJECT.

THE SECOND GRANT IS FOR \$65,000 TO THE "REGIONAL EDUCATION RADIO PROJECT" OF THE WISCONSIN-NICARAGUA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS.

THE THIRD GRANT, FOR \$75,000 IS ALSO FOR THE WISCONSIN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NICARAGUA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS. IT WOULD SUPPORT THE ON-GOING "EAST COST REGIONAL HEALTH PROJECT."

THE TWO PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING THESE GRANTS ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA, AND HAVE RECEIVED AID ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST. AID IS CURRENTLY LOOKING INTO THE TECHNICAL VIABILITY OF THE PROPOSED RURAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

Q: DO THESE U.S. ACTIONS SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN OUR POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA?

A: NO. WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, AND WE CONTINUE TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA TO INVITE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO PAY AN EARLY VISIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING THAT SITUATION.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE HOSPITAL?

A: NICARAGUA RECENTLY APPLIED TO USE \$160,000 OF ITS REMAINING FMS CREDITS FROM FISCAL 1976 TO PURCHASE

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN MANAGUA
TO WHICH CIVILIANS CAN ALSO BE ADMITTED. WE HAVE
AGREED TO THAT REQUEST. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO
RESUMPTION OF NON-MEDICAL FMS ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA
AT THIS TIME. VANCE

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